

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the time taken by the Examiner to review Applicant's present application. Applicant has cancelled Claims 30, 33-37, 42, 45-48 and 53-58, amended Claims 31, 32, 38, 39, 41, 43, 49, 50, 52 and 56 and added Claims 59-62. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added by these amendments. Thus, Claims 31, 32, 38-41, 43, 44, 49-52, 56-62 remain pending in this application. This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Official Action mailed March 16, 2005. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Claim Objections

Claims 38-41, 49-52 and 56-58 stand currently objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowable subject matter. Claims 38, 39, 41, 49, 50, 52 and 56 have been amended accordingly. Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments place Claims 38-41, 49-52 and 56-58 in condition for allowance. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 31, 35, 36, 43, 46 and 47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Applicant has cancelled Claims 35, 36, 46 and 47. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits the rejection of these claims is now moot. However, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claims 31 and 43. The Examiner asserts that the subject matter of these claims is not described in the specification.

Amended Claim 31 recites, in part, that the secondary component continues operating if the first identifier is not compatible with the second identifier. Claim 43 recites a similar limitation.

Thus, embodiments of the present invention compare a first identifier of a primary component with a second identifier of a second component. If the identifiers are compatible the primary and the secondary component may operate in conjunction with one another, however if the identifiers are not compatible the first component may be operated without the second

component. In any event, though, the second component may continue operating. This is specifically pointed in the claims with the limitation “the secondary component continues operating if the first identifier is not compatible with the second identifier.” This limitation indicates that in embodiments of the present invention if the first identifier is not compatible with the second identifier the first component may operate without the second component, which in turn may continue to operate, usually without the first component. Thus, both the first component and the second component continue to operate after a comparison of the first and second identifiers, regardless of whether the first and second identifiers are compatible or not.

Though the Examiner states that the subject matter of this claim is not supported by the specification, the continued operation of both components is supported by the specification. Specifically, last sentence of paragraph [0020] says that that if the comparison of the two identifiers indicates that a component is authorized to be used with the primary system, the primary system enables use of the component, otherwise the primary system operates as if the component is not available to it. Thus, the primary system operates without the component, however, the component itself may continue operating. Moreover, paragraph [0027] goes on to say that those components that were not identified as being authorized are not enabled and will not be used by the system. Thus, if the identifier of a component is not within a certain group of identifiers the component is deemed not to be authorized and it will not be used by the system. The component may, however, continue to operate and be utilized by other systems to which it is coupled, for example by a PCI bus.

As the limitations of Claims 31 are fully supported by the specification, the withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 31 is respectfully requested. Additionally, as Claims 43 recites similar limitations to Claims 43 the withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 43 is requested as well.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 30, 32-35, 37, 42, 45, 46, 48 and 53-55 stand rejected as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,884,901 (“Ghori”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,790,834 (“Dreyer”).

Applicant has cancelled Claims 30, 33-35, 37, 45, 46, 48 and 53-55. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits the rejection of these claims is now moot.

With respect to Claim 32, Applicant has amended Claim 32 to depend from Claim 31. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 32 is allowable as a further limitation on currently allowable Claim 31.

Claim 44

The Applicant respectfully points out that the Examiner has provided no information regarding Claim 44. Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 44 is allowable as a further limitation on currently allowable Claim 43. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of Claim 44.

Newly Added Claims 59-62

Applicant has added Claims 59-62 to more particularly point out and distinctly Claims the invention. Applicant respectfully requests that no new matter has been added by the Claims, and respectfully submits that these claims are similar to objected to Claim 40, 41, 51 or 52. Accordingly, full allowance of Claims 59-62 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. Other than as explicitly set forth above, this reply does not include acquiescence to statements, assertions, assumptions, conclusions, or any combination thereof in the Office Action. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of Claims 31, 32, 38-41, 43, 44, 49-52, 56-62. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below for prompt action in the event any issues remain.

The Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-3183 of Sprinkle IP Law Group.

Respectfully submitted,

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